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## PROTESTS FOR WOOD

**Secretary Root Declares That Some One Misrepresents the Testimony Given.**

**CONFIRMED BY GENERAL BLISS**

**Who Says His Testimony Was the Reverse of That Published—Witnesses Who Tell Interesting Stories.**

Washington, Dec. 15.—Secretary Root has addressed a letter to Senator Proctor, acting chairman of the committee on military affairs, in which he complains "that the press reports of General Bliss' testimony are the precise contrary of what he in fact testified," and declares it a fact that "some persons seem to be persistently furnishing to the press false statements of the testimony taken before you, the perversion of the evidence being in every case to the prejudice of General Wood."

**Testimony of Gen. Bliss.**  
The secretary sends a letter from General Bliss, in which he contradicts the report that he strongly opposed the admission without payment of duty of the silver service purchased in New York by the Jai Alai, and that he received mandatory instructions from General Wood to admit said silver service free of duty. He says he testified "most positively under oath exactly the reverse of what was published as his testimony."

**Newspaper Men on the Stand.**  
When the senate committee on military affairs resumed its investigation of the Wood charges four witnesses were waiting to be heard. These were Dr. C. E. Fisher, of Chicago, and J. O. LaFontaine, city editor of the Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union, managing editor and city editor respectively of The Havana Post, published during United States occupation; L. H. Morrison, of New York, and General John R. Brooke, retired. Fisher was called first. He told the story of General Wood's intimacy with Bellairs, and declared that General Wood knew of Bellairs' bad record.

**Didn't Want the Story Printed.**  
Dr. Fisher said that in September, 1900, he accompanied General Wood on a trip to the Isle of Pines, and there told him of an article which he had ordered printed in the Havana Post exposing Bellairs. The witness said that General Wood told him he did not want the story printed, and it had not been used on account of that request.

**WOOD DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW**

**Say Fisher and LaFontaine Anything Wrong About Bellairs.**

Dr. Fisher testified that he told General Wood all he had learned of the character of Bellairs, and that he had offered to General Wood to produce witnesses who could prove Bellairs' indecent immorality. He said that General Wood told him he did not care to know anything about the stories; that all he asked was that they be printed in Havana. In addition to corroboration of Dr. Fisher's testimony LaFontaine told of the manner in which he had learned of Bellairs' character and swore also that General Wood knew all about it.

He said he learned from persons who went to Havana from Florida that Bellairs had served five years in Florida convict camps—three years in one and two years in another. The crime of which he had been convicted was forgery on a branch of the Bank of England. LaFontaine said that in May, 1900, a convict from Florida named Johnson came to him and said he had seen Bellairs and General Wood together at the races in Havana and that he recognized and spoke to Bellairs, who motioned to him to keep silent.

After this incident, testified LaFontaine, General Wood sent for him and asked what he knew of Bellairs' record. LaFontaine said he told General Wood of his talk with Johnson and also what he had learned from other persons from Florida. That was in June, 1900, and according to LaFontaine General Wood then asked him to see Johnson and ascertain whether he would leave Cuba and remain away if his passage were paid to New York and money given. Johnson answered: "Why, do I want to leave? I have too good a thing here bleeding Bellairs." LaFontaine returned to General Wood and gave him Johnson's answer. LaFontaine said that later Bellairs and General Wood went to New York.

**GEN. BROOKE AGAIN TESTIFIES**

**Shows Orders He Says Gen. Wood Violated at Santiago.**

When General Brooke was before the committee two weeks ago he referred to two orders, one issued by the war department and the other by himself to carry the first into effect, which he was unable at that time to furnish. He went on the stand to present the orders and undergo an examination concerning them. The order issued by the war department directed that all funds collected in the provinces of Cuba should be sent to the military auditor at Havana. The charge was made that the order had been issued by direction of General Brooke for the purpose of getting hold of the funds collected at Santiago and to deprive that province of its own revenues.

The newspapers at Santiago were particularly bitter. General Brooke

told the military affairs committee that the order was issued at a time when he was sick in bed and that he had had no previous knowledge concerning it. The other order filed with the committee was one witness issued after his recovery. It directed General Wood, in command of the province of Santiago, not to make expenditures for public purposes in excess of \$10,000 a month without first submitting the question to the military governor.

General Brooke said that General Wood had ignored that order and had gone on spending public money without authority from the military governor. General Brooke was asked whether he had withdrawn the revenues from Santiago for expenses elsewhere. He answered that Santiago had received all its own revenues and more than \$200,000 additional.

L. H. Morrison, who is a lawyer at 44 Broadway, New York, testified that he was interested in the Electrozone company, of Havana, and that his company received contracts of General Wood for disinfecting the city. He said that there is still due to his company the sum of \$8,000 on contracts and that Cuban officials in Havana swear the money was paid to General Wood to discharge the indebtedness. Morrison said he believed that General Wood received that money.

**MORE MARINES ARE LANDED**

**Company from U. S. S. Prairie Sent to Watch the Columbians from Yaviza.**

Colon, Dec. 15.—A company of marines from the United States cruiser *Prairie* has been landed here, and immediately started by train for Panama. The destination of the marines is said to be Yaviza, up the San Miguel gulf and Tuira river. It is believed that the decision of the naval authorities to station marines at Yaviza may possibly be owing to the reports that Colombian troops have been sent in that direction.

The opinion seems to prevail that a few Colombian soldiers seen were endeavoring to learn what preventive and protective measures were being taken by the republic of Panama, and that it was their presence which gave rise to exaggerated rumors of a speedy attack by Colombia on the isthmus.

**HIS TOO READY REVOLVER**

**Makes Him the Slayer of His Child of Only Seven Months in Its Cradle.**

St. Louis, Dec. 15.—Ellsworth Tondick, the 7-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Tondick, is dead from a wound in the head accidentally inflicted by his father's revolver. The father had taken umbrage at a remark made by Harry Sterling, a young man, to his wife, and made an attempt to shoot him, although Sterling said no offense was meant.

A scuffle for the revolver resulted in its discharge and the shooting of the child, which lay in its cradle. The father and several others are under arrest, awaiting the action of the coroner's jury.

**More Presidential Postoffices.**

Washington, Dec. 15.—The postoffice department announces among others that the following fourth-class postoffices will be advanced to the presidential grade Jan. 1 next: Illinois—Arlington Heights, Athens, Byron, Clay City, Grant Park, Louisville, Mansfield, Potomac, Saint Elmo, Sidell, Tamara, Tipton, Tolono, Indiana—Atlanta, Fremont, Indiana Harbor, Lima, Montezuma, Shobals, Winfield, Iowa—Brighton, Central City, Cumberland, Gilmore City, Dussel, Wyoming, Michigan—Albion, Hermansville, Millington, Stockbridge, Wisconsin—Cadotta, Colby, Iowa, Markesan, Mellen, Palmyra, Wausaukee.

**Drunken Riot and Gun Play.**

Channah, N. H., Dec. 15.—During a drunken riot at the streets here a policeman shot *Tom* McLain through the chest. McLain and Ella Wells then made a stand and fired into a crowd of 200 persons, who pursued them. None was hurt. McLain will likely die.

**Had to Call on the Police.**

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 15.—Dr. Joseph H. Greer, of Fort Wayne, Ind., died in this city of blood poisoning, the result of stepping on a tack in a sleeping car while en route here recently. Dr. Greer was 68 years old.

**Sent to Recovering.**

New York, Dec. 15.—At the residence of Senator William A. Clark it is said that his condition is much improved and that he is gaining steadily. He has recently had two operations performed upon his ear.

**Star Grows at Finland.**

St. Petersburg, Dec. 15.—Governor General Bobrikoff has ordered the withdrawal of state aid from schools in Finland, where the decree requiring the teaching of the Russian language is not observed.

**President Bryan Is Convalescent.**

Bloomington, Ind., Dec. 15.—President Bryan, of the Indiana university, reported ill with an acute attack of tonsillitis, is so far convalescent that he is again able to transact official business.

## CUT FOR THOUSANDS

**Sweeping Reduction in Wages and Salaries by the Great Steel Trust**

**WILL AFFECT 150,000 WORKMEN**

**Dividends Expected for Stockholding Employees—Latest News from the Strike Centers.**

New York, Dec. 15.—The statement is made by a leading official of the United States Steel Corporation that beginning Jan. 1, 1904, about 90 per cent. of the employees of the corporation will suffer wage reductions ranging from 5 to 20 per cent. This reduction will affect about 150,000 workmen in the various grades of the subsidiary companies. The remaining 10 per cent. of employees is in the membership of the Amalgamated Association, whose wage schedule runs to July 1, 1904.

**Dividend for Stockholding Employees.**

The finance committee of the steel corporation has, it is understood, under consideration the dismissal of many high salaried employees in addition to those already discharged, but no statement on this point was forthcoming. It was asserted that barring some unforeseen technicalities employees of the corporation who participated in the profit-sharing plan will in the coming month receive a \$5 dividend on the preferred stock to which they subscribed at \$82.50.

**No Employment for Union Men.**

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 15.—"Any miner who wants to work for the Utah Fuel company must choose between the company and the miners' union," said Vice President Kramer, of the Utah Fuel company. "We will not take back a single one of the strikers so long as they are unwilling to surrender their union cards." The Utah Fuel company controls the mines at Sunnyside, Winter Quarters, Scofield and Castle Gate, Utah, which have been partly tied up for several weeks as the result of the miners' strike. Kramer said that the company would not modify its attitude with regard to the miners' union in any particular. Company officials assert that the output of the mines has nearly reached its normal figure.

**Compensated to New York.**

Washington, Dec. 15.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has directed President Gompers and Vice President Duncan to go to New York and endeavor to adjust the building trades dispute in that city.

**WROTH WITH PATTERSON**

**Colorado Senator Not Persona Grata with the Citizens' Alliance.**

Denver, Dec. 15.—The executive committee of the Denver Citizens' Alliance has adopted the following resolutions: "Whereas, Senator Patterson last Friday offered a resolution in the senate of the United States authorizing the appointment of a committee to investigate all matters connected with the existing labor strikes in the state of Colorado, and the conduct of the state officials in reference thereto, and in his recital of the alleged facts either ignorantly misstated the same or willfully and purposely misrepresented them, and attacked the motives of the state officials, and reflected upon the good name of the people of this state; and

"Whereas, the appointment of said committee is especially desirable, to the end that the facts connected with said matters be published to the world, and the incorrect, partisan and misleading statements of Senator Patterson be refuted; now therefore be it

"Resolved, That while we deprecate the manner and method in which Senator Patterson presented the subject to the senate in his resolutions, yet we join with him in requesting the appointment of said committee; and be it further,

"Resolved, That the secretary of the Citizens' Alliance of Denver be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the president of the United States senate."

**Trinidad, Colo., Dec. 15.—Judge Northcott refused an injunction sought by the United Mine Workers to restrain the Victor Fuel company, its officers and agents, from in any way interfering with union organizers who wish to visit the coal camps controlled by that company.**

Telluride, Colo., Dec. 15.—The miners' union has voted to continue the strike in this district until a settlement on an eight-hour day basis is reached with mine and mill managers. The managers say they will not recognize the union or grant its demands.

**Miss Gould Declines the Office.**

St. Louis, Dec. 15.—Miss Helen Gould has notified her friends among the board of lady managers of the World's fair that under no circumstances could she consider acceptance of the position of president to succeed Mrs. James L. Fair. This, according to the members themselves, leaves the contest practically between Mrs. Walker Horton, of Buffalo, and Mrs. Daniel Manning, of Washington.

**Death Brought Him Home.**

Fort Wayne, Ind., Dec. 15.—John Rhine has just returned from Kalamazoo with the body of his son James, who died in the asylum in that city. The young man, disappeared from this city four years ago, and his family knew nothing of his whereabouts until notified by the authorities of the asylum in Kalamazoo.

## CLOSE UP THE RANKS

**Apparent Policy of the Democrats in the Senate at Washington.**

**CAUCUS ORDER TO BE THE LAW**

**When Indorsed by Two-Thirds—General Wood's Veracity Again Assailed—Speaker Cannon to Labor Official.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—After considerable opposition the Democratic caucus passed a resolution declaring that caucus action of the party hereafter shall be binding and that all members should abide by such caucus action. The caucus will assemble today, when it is expected the Panama treaty will be taken up. The resolution to make the caucus binding provides that any action so indorsed must have a two-thirds vote. The action of the Democratic caucus was not unanimous. Cockrell opposed the proposition, saying that during the past fifty years such a proceeding was not regarded as necessary by the Democratic party. To this the reply was made that the Democratic party had been in power but very little during the past fifty years. Stone of Missouri took issue with his colleague and favored firm caucus action. When the vote was taken Cockrell was excused from voting. Two other senators voted against the proposition.

**Says Wood Is Untruthful.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—The most notable testimony in the Wood case before the senate military committee was given by Alex. E. Eyer, formerly superintendent of public instruction of Cuba. He said that the schools of Cuba were organized under laws issued by General Brooke, and that an order making a cut in salaries of teachers was issued by General Wood. He declared that there had been a breach of faith on the part of General Wood, which interfered with the efficiency of the schools. He asserted that General Wood was untruthful in many matters affecting public affairs.

**Cannon to the Labor Men.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—When the labor officials called upon Speaker Cannon to see about labor legislation the speaker informed his visitors he had no doubt they would be given a full and free hearing on the bills in which they are interested, and said it would be his duty as well as his pleasure to co-operate with them to secure fair hearing and a full discussion of all legislation they might suggest. The house could not afford to try to secure legislation for one class to the detriment of another, or for one class to the detriment of labor. The speaker said he was not opposed to organized labor, but on the contrary, considered it his duty and pleasure to co-operate and secure the fullest and freest consideration of the legislation suggested.

**PATTERSON FOR BEET SUGAR**

**Says the Sugar Trust Is at the Bottom of Cuban Reciprocity.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—During the debate in the senate on the Cuban treaty bill Patterson of Colorado was a principal speaker. He declared the Republican congress to be the mouthpiece for the influences which threaten to destroy the beet sugar industry. He found the inspiration of this course in availing the sugar beet fields for the control of the sugar supply.

In reply to a question from Aldrich as to whether a Democratic caucus would endorse Jefferson's doctrine of protection, he said that the Democratic party is not a free trade party, but is for incidental protection. The Democratic party was not alone, said Patterson, in not being a unit. It had not been so long since the Republican governor of Iowa had come to Washington, and after a visit to the White House had returned to Iowa and allowed Allison, the senator from that state, to write the party platform for him.

Dolliver interrupted to say that there had been nothing to indicate that Governor Cummins had surrendered any of his tariff views, "and," he added, "the results of the late election show that he has not surrendered any of his majorities."

Patterson declared that four out of five senators would hold their noses while voting for this bill and that many of them would cast their votes against it if they could break away from the influences of the White House. He compared those who are controlled by this influence to "a nest of young robins standing with mouths wide open and ready to swallow even a reciprocity worm if dropped by the parent bird at the White House."

**COULDN'T GET THEIR MAIL**

**Although It Was Going Across the Sea on the Same Boat with Them.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—To relieve a remarkable situation growing out of the inability of the Twentieth infantry, now on the transport *Logan* en route to Manila, to get its mail, carried on the same boat, Postmaster General Payne has cabled the captain of the transport to deliver the mail to the colonel of the regiment on arrival at Guam. When the transport sailed from San Francisco it carried a large amount of mail for the personnel of the regiment, the greater portion being sealed for delivery at Manila.

Under the regulations there was no authority to deliver the mail before

reaching the point to which it was billed, and the colonel of the regiment cabled from Midway island for the necessary authority to open the pouches. The postmaster general, who made the regulations that governed in this instance, assented and the regiment will get its mail when the boat touches at Guam.

**Senate and House in Brief.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—The senate continued the debate on the Cuban bill. Perkins of California spoke for the measure, as did Simmons of North Carolina. McCumber of North Dakota opposed it. Patterson of Colorado was against the bill. There was quite a lively debate on the tariff.

**Rural Free Delivery, Reciprocity with Canada, and the new republic of Panama were topics of discussion in the house, while the bill under consideration was the pension bill.**

**Insurance Bill Is Opposed.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—The senate committee on postoffices and post roads heard the objections of a number of representatives of insurance companies to the passage of the bill prepared by state insurance commissioners, to bar fraudulent insurance companies from using the mails.

**Heyburn Wants More Expansion.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, has introduced a joint resolution requesting the president acquire by annexation the island of San Domingo and the dependencies of San Domingo, and Hayti.

**Wants a Tax on Incomes.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—Williams of Mississippi introduced a concurrent resolution in the house proposing an amendment to the constitution to give congress power to collect taxes on incomes.

**MERGER FOR FRATERNITIES**

**Insurance Associations Claiming a Million Members Have Joined Their Interests.**

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The Fraternal Army of America and the Loyal American, embracing a membership of over 1,000,000 scattered all over the United States have been merged into one organization here. The new body will be known as the Fraternal Army of Loyal Workers. Delegates from both associations met in annual convention, and it was decided that the members could be best served by amalgamating both fraternities into one.

**Many amendments will be made in the constitutions and rituals of both associations, in order to make them suit the needs of the new order.**

The following officers for the new organization, all of whom are from Springfield, Ill., were elected: President, Edwin E. Smith; vice president, George W. Smother; secretary, Ira J. Bell; treasurer, James A. Easley, and examining physician, Dr. E. C. Giffney.

**PREACHERS WERE DISCUSSED**

**By the Testimonials, Who Considered Them Wholly as to Their Value to Prohibition.**

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Preachers as campaign orators were the principal subject discussed at the meeting of the Prohibition national committee. The ten committeemen who participated in the meeting at the Auditorium will decide on the place for the national convention before their adjournment today. The general welfare of the party was discussed, this discussion having to do mainly with the methods of campaign orators.

The consensus of opinion seemed to be against the preachers. "The infidel who votes the party ticket is worth more than the Christian who don't," said H. W. Wilbur, of New York. Other members said ministers as stump speakers were less effective than business men, owing to their lack of knowledge of the best way to reach and convince the people.

**STRENUOUSITY IN KENTUCKY**

**One Woman, Jealous of Another, Goes to the Other's House and Murders Her.**

Paducah, Ky., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Will Burtram, a young married woman, went to the house of Arlie Johnson at Benton, and calling her to the door shot the woman in the head with a revolver. Miss Johnson died on her doorstep. Mrs. Burtram is in jail.

The attentions of Will Burtram to Miss Johnson are said to have made his wife a murderess. Mrs. Burtram is a daughter of E. E. Roberts, of Benton. Her husband, the cause of the trouble, is a son of W. R. Burtram, who is in jail at Benton, charged with murder.

**"Demon" Sellers Want to Merge.**

Indianapolis, Dec. 16.—A plan has been under way for several months to merge the Knights of Fidelity, the Royal Arch and the National Liquor Dealers' association, the three organizations of liquor men. The matter will be considered at a meeting to be held at Cincinnati next month.

**Jail-Break at Tombstone.**

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 16.—Burt Alvord, the noted Arizona desperado under sentence for train robbery, and his partner, Billy Stiles, broke jail at Tombstone, A. T. Eleven other prisoners escaped with the train robbers, and all are at large.

**O'Keefe Gets the Decision.**

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Jack O'Keefe, of Chicago, was given the decision over Gus Gardner, of Philadelphia, after six rounds of tame fighting here.

**Will Be Represented at St. Louis.**

Breslau, Prussia, Dec. 16.—The provincial committee of Silesia has voted to participate in the St. Louis exposition.

## VOTE IS SIGNIFICANT

**Chamberlain Men Carry Two Supposedly Free Trade Constituencies.**

**LIBERALS THOUGHT THEM SAFE**

**And Are Somewhat Dazed by the Result—Tariff Reformers Are Elated.**

London, Dec. 16.—Few bye-elections of recent years have evoked a tithe of the interest shown in the contests in the Dulwich division of Chamberlain, and at Lewisham, to fill the vacancies caused by the deaths of Sir John Blundell Maple and John Penn, both of whom had represented their respective constituencies for many years in the Conservative interest. Dr. F. Rutherford Harris (Conservative), who was confidential agent of the late Cecil Rhodes, and C. F. G. Masterman (Liberal), contested Dulwich, while Major Coates and J. W. Cleland represented the Conservatives and Liberals respectively in the Lewisham borough.

**Fiscal Question Was Prominent.**

The fiscal question was prominent throughout the campaign, and Chamberlain intervened with letters in support of the Conservative candidates. The question of the importation of Chinese labor into South Africa was used by the Liberals at Dulwich as an anti-Harris slogan while the Conservatives even dragged in the king's name, attaching the words "Edwardus Rex" to posters in such a way as to create the impression that the king was a supporter of Chamberlain's fiscal proposals.

**Triumph for the Chamberlain Idea.**

The king, on being telegraphed disavowed all connection with the election. The result of the voting was the election of Major Coates by a majority of 2,012, and F. Rutherford Harris by a majority of 1,437. The result has pleased the tariff reformers. Chamberlain expressed himself as delighted with the result, and the protectionist dailies this morning claim the results as a complete triumph for Chamberlain's policy.

**Significance of the Result.**

Both constituencies polled very heavily. Lewisham, which is largely a working class district, shows a reduced majority of about 400 compared with the last contested election in 1887. In Dulwich, which is mainly the home of city clerks, a greater reduction is shown, the majority for the Conservatives in 1895 having reached 3,000. These reductions are of small significance, however, in the face of the fact that the Chamberlain candidates secured large majorities where the free trade party undoubtedly hoped to win. This double victory will be of great advantage to Chamberlain, who resumes his campaign tonight at Leeds, when he will address a big meeting.

**What the Great Editors Say.**

The Liberal dailies confess discouragement, and urge the free traders to redouble their efforts, since, as The Chronicle remarks, "Mr. Chamberlain is a power in the country which it would be most serious not to estimate highly." The Daily News discusses the probability of the government, encouraged by yesterday's results, appealing to the country without delay. The Daily Telegraph boldly suggests that the result must dispel Balfour's doubts as to whether the country is ripe for a preferential policy, and proposes that Chamberlain should be invited to proceed personally to the colonies and see what practical arrangements can be made to secure a complete commercial union within the empire."

**REPUBLICAN APATHY**

**About the Only Thing in the Boston Municipal That Was Connected with the G. O. P.**

Boston, Dec. 16.—The Democrats won an overwhelming victory in the municipal election, Mayor Patrick Collins being re-elected by 25,565 plurality, the largest ever given a mayoralty candidate in the history of the city. The board of aldermen next year will be solidly Democratic, and that party will have a large majority in the common council.

The city as usual favored licensed liquor selling by a large majority. The election was notable for the Republican apathy. The vote for the candidate for mayor, George H. Swallow, falling off more than 33 per cent. from that given the party candidate two years ago.

**Failed to Build the Line.**

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Judge Kohlsaat has appointed Lester C. Childs receiver for the firm of James H. Collins & Co., general contractors. The principal claim is that of the LaCrosse (Wis.) and Southeastern Railroad company, for \$44,000, which grew out of the failure of the defendant company to construct an electric railroad between LaCrosse and Viroqua, Wis.

**Seagulls Are Coming Home.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—United States Minister Fagnano, at Bogota, has called the state department that he expects to leave there for the United States on leave of absence on the 20th inst. He is coming by way of Cartagena.

**Boodlers Will Not Get Away.**

St. Louis, Dec. 16.—Circuit Attorney Folk says that whatever the effect of the supreme court decision may be it will not permanently release any bootlegger now under charges.

## BOOM FOR TAGGART

**Indiana Democrats Declare Him the Man to Manage the National Campaign.**

**DATES PICKED FOR MEETINGS**

**Coal Men Complain of Discrimination—Latest from Rising Sun—State News Notes.**

Indianapolis, Dec. 16.—The Democratic state central committee held a meeting here for the purpose of arranging for the reorganization of that body and preparing for the preliminary work of the campaign of 1904. Former Mayor Taggart, by a unanimous vote, was indorsed for chairman of the national Democratic committee. Taggart is commended to the Democracy of the country for chairman on account of his "unflinching loyalty to party, excellent judgment, splendid business ability, unflinching courage and boundless enthusiasm."

**Conventions in the District.**

The committee fixed the following date and places for the district conventions: First district, Dec. 16, at Mount Vernon, Dec. 31; Second, Vincennes, Jan. 5; Third, New Albany, Dec. 31; Fourth, North Vernon, Dec. 31; Fifth, Terre Haute, Dec. 31; Sixth, Rushville, Dec. 31; Eighth, Decatur, Dec. 31; Ninth, Peru, Dec. 31; Tenth, Lafayette, Jan. 7; Twelfth, Columbia, Jan. 2.

**Will Fight the Apportionment Law.**

The county conventions will take place Dec. 26, except in the case of Greene county, which will hold its convention Jan. 1. The Democratic new state committee will meet here Jan. 8 and elect a chairman for the campaign. By far the most important question discussed by the committee was the matter of deciding upon the legal steps to be taken to test in court the constitutionality of the apportionment law, enacted by the last legislature. Action through the courts was decided upon.

**Jefferson League To Be Disrupted.**

The "Jefferson League," a Democratic organization which was formed in this state to inculcate the principles of the Chicago platform, is about to be disrupted. At a recent meeting an attempt was made to put the purpose of the league in the form of a resolution. It met with violent opposition and the secretary and several others have resigned.

**DISCRIMINATION IS ALLEGED**

**Coal Operators in Indiana Complain of the Big Four and Vandalia Ohio and West Virginia Favored.**

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 16.—Coal operators in Greene and Sullivan counties are discriminating against the product of their mines in favor of coal mined along their lines, and more particularly in favor of Ohio and West Virginia. They alleged that hundreds of cars of coal are standing on sidings between here and Indianapolis, some of it having been there since the middle of October.

The companies allege that it is practically impossible to get any of their coal into the Indiana gas belt. The Indiana Bituminous Coal Operators' association will meet here to appoint delegates to the wage conference which meets at Indianapolis and discuss probable changes in the scale.

**Developments at Rising Sun.**

Rising Sun, Ind., Dec. 16.—Some of the witnesses who have testified before the grand jury are Earl Seward, a nephew of the victim; James Long; Mrs. Mary Hewitt, a former servant of the Gillespies; Miss Lizzie Lott, Miss Laura Johnson, Mrs. Valie Scott, Mrs. James Lemmon and Miss Adie Griswold. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Davis measured the dimensions of the front room of the Gillespie home, where the young lady was shot and killed.

**Whole Family Has Typhoid.**